

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A knee protecting airbag device for a vehicle, wherein the vehicle has a passenger compartment and a panel located at the front of the passenger compartment, and wherein the airbag device comprises:

a folded airbag;

a case that houses the airbag, wherein the case has an opening through which the airbag may protrude when inflated;

an airbag cover, wherein the airbag cover includes:

a door, wherein the door covers the opening of the case; and

a general portion, which is located around the door;

fasteners for attaching the airbag cover to the case, wherein the fasteners are constructed to permit the airbag cover to move slightly with respect to the case; and

fixing members that fix the airbag cover to the panel.

20. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

21. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein each of the fixing members is hook-like, and each hook-like fixing member is fitted in a mounting hole formed in the panel, such that each hook-like fixing member engages the panel.

22. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein each of the fixing members is a mounting leg, which is deformed and retained by a mounting hole formed in the panel.

23. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein the panel is a lower panel of an instrument panel.

24. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 19, wherein each of the fixing members is located outside of the ~~mounting members~~fasteners, with respect to the case.

25. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 24, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

26. (Currently amended) A knee protecting airbag device for a vehicle, wherein the vehicle has a passenger compartment and a knee-panel, which is located at the front of the passenger compartment approximately at the knee-level of a seated passenger, and wherein the airbag device comprises:

a folded airbag;

a case that houses the airbag, wherein the case has an opening;

an airbag cover, wherein the airbag cover includes:

a door, wherein the door covers the opening of the case; and

a general portion, which is located around the door;

fasteners for attaching the airbag cover to the case, wherein the fasteners are constructed to permit the airbag cover to move slightly with respect to the case; and

fixing members that fix the airbag cover to the knee-panel.

27. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

28. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein each of the fixing members is hook-like, and each hook-like fixing member is fitted in a mounting hole formed in the ~~panel~~knee-panel, such that each hook-like fixing member engages the ~~panel~~knee-panel.

29. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein each of the fixing members is a mounting leg, which is deformed and retained by a mounting hole formed in the ~~panel~~knee-panel.

30. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 26, wherein each of the fixing members is located outside of the ~~mounting members~~fasteners, with respect to the case.

31. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 30, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

32. (Currently amended) A knee protecting airbag device for a vehicle, wherein the vehicle has a front end, a rear end, a passenger compartment, and a panel located at the front end of the passenger compartment, and the airbag device comprises:

a folded airbag;

an inflator for feeding inflating gas to said airbag; and

a case that houses said airbag and said inflator and is located in front of a seated passenger;

an airbag cover, wherein the airbag cover includes:

a door, wherein the door covers the opening of the case; and

a general portion, which is located around the door;

fasteners for attaching the airbag cover to the case, wherein the fasteners are constructed to permit the airbag cover to move slightly with respect to the case; and

fixing members that fix the airbag cover to the panel.

33. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

34. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein each of the fixing members is hook-like, and each hook-like fixing member is fitted in a mounting hole formed in the panel, such that each hook-like fixing member engages the panel.

35. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein each of the fixing members is a mounting leg, which is deformed and retained by a mounting hole formed in the panel.

36. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 32, wherein each of the fixing members is located outside of the ~~mounting members~~fasteners, with respect to the case.

37. (Previously presented) The knee protecting airbag device of claim 36, wherein the fixing members are located near an outer edge of the general portion.

38. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of ~~claim 36~~claim 32, wherein the panel is a lower panel of an instrument panel.

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39. (Currently amended) The knee protecting airbag device of ~~claim 36~~claim 32, wherein the panel is a knee-panel, which is located approximately at the knee level of a passenger seated in the passenger compartment.